

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending. All claims have been rejected. Independent claims 5, 7, and 20 have been amended to obviate the rejections. Claims 1-4, 6, 8-19, and 21-23 have not been amended. No new matter has been entered.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The Examiner purportedly does not find written description support for "changing a first password, the system having a password database that stores said first password...." The Examiner purportedly also does not find support for "obtaining" the "first password." Applicant notes that the specification refers to replacing an "old password" with a "new password" (see, for example, paragraph [0032]) and storing "data indicative of the new password" in a database "other than the password database on the system" (see Figure 5) where the "old password" is stored (see, for example, paragraph [0034]). Applicant has changed the wording "first password" to "old password" to explicitly recite the language used in the specification. The Examiner is also asked to note that the claims did NOT and do not recite "*obtaining*" the "first password." The claims recited "*changing* a first password" and now recite "*changing* an old password." These steps of the claimed method are clearly disclosed throughout the specification and particularly in the cited paragraphs. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is thus proper and is respectfully solicited.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a)

The Examiner has again rejected claims 1-7, 11, and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Bellemore et al. (US 5,944,825), claims 8-10 and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Bellemore in view of Novoa et al. (US 6,636,973), and claims 16-17 and 22-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Bellemore and Novoa in view of Schneier (Bruce Schneier, "Applied Cryptography, Second Edition). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In the "Response to Arguments" section of the Official Action (pages 3-6), the Examiner expresses his finding that Applicant's previous arguments were "not persuasive"

since Applicant has "not claimed" the steps of "detection of the change of password operation and the storage of the new password in a *second* database" (emphasis in original) or the step of "providing the new password to the system automatically" as argued in the previous response. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Support for the cited limitations may be found in independent claim 1 (without amendment) and in independent claims 5, 7, and 20 as amended. Specific support in each independent claim is indicated below.

Independent claim 1 recites:

detecting an occurrence of a password change operation in execution on a system having a password database that stores passwords resulting from a password change operation; detecting a new password when provided; and,
storing data indicative of the new password in a database other than the password database for later retrieval, the data indicative of the new password for use in **providing the new password to the system automatically**.

Independent claim 5 recites:

detecting a change password operation in execution on a system for changing an old password, the system having a password database that stores said old password; displaying to a user a prompt for a new password, in response to detecting the change password operation in execution and other than occurring as an operation of the change password operation; receiving the new password;
performing an operation to change the old password to the new password in the system automatically; and,
storing the new password in a database independent of the change password operation and other than the password database where the new password is stored by the change password operation.

Independent claim 7 recites:

detecting a password change operation in execution on a system having a password database that stores passwords resulting from a password change operation;

displaying to a user a prompt for authentication information in response to detecting the change password operation in execution and other than occurring as an operation of the change password operation;

receiving the authentication information;

when the authentication information is indicative of a known user, **performing an operation to change a password of the known user to a new password in the system automatically; and,**

storing the new password in a database independent of the change password operation and other than the password database where the changed password is stored by the change password operation.

Independent claim 20 recites:

detecting a password change operation in execution on a system having a known user authorized thereon;

automatically generating a new password in response to detecting the password change operation and other than occurring as an operation of the change password operation and storing the new password in a password database;

performing an operation to change a password to the new password in the system automatically; and,

storing the new password in a database independent of the change password operation and other than the password database where the changed password is stored.

The claimed features are not believed to be shown or suggested by the prior art relied upon by the Examiner for the reasons given below.

Bellemore

Bellemore disclose a database system having its own security and password mechanisms independent of the security and password mechanisms of an associated server. A script is invoked to determine whether a provided password meets certain password criteria. Figure 4 illustrates the steps taken by a security process when the client transmits a password change request to the database. As illustrated, the security process receives the client user ID, password, and the proposed new password. A script executing process 205

executes a verification script and transmits a message indicating whether the proposed password meets the criteria embodied in the script. A message is also provided to the client indicating whether the password and user ID combination is valid. Such scripts enable the database to provide security independent of the server upon which it resides.

As noted in the previous response, Applicant can find no reference in Bellemore to a password database or a database "other than the password database" for storing a new password or data indicative of the new password and associating same with authentication data for the user. Such a separate database system for tracking password changes does not appear to be taught by Bellemore. Moreover, Bellemore provides no teachings relevant to changing passwords for several systems/files/applications *automatically* as claimed.

Claims 1-7, 11, and 18-21

Independent claim 1 recites a method of securely supporting password change by detecting the occurrence of a password change operation that changes a password and stores same in a password database and "stores data indicative of the new password in a database other than the password database for later retrieval, the data indicative of the new password for use in providing the new password to the system automatically." Similar features may be found in amended independent claims 5, 7, and 20. What is common to each of these independent claims is the detection of the change of password operation and the storage of the new password in a second database (other than the password database) for later retrieval and providing the new password to the system automatically.

Applicant can find no comparable teachings in Bellemore. The citations provided by the Examiner are irrelevant to the subject matter claimed. The amendments to the claims are believed to obviate the Examiner's interpretations of the teachings of Bellemore as applied to the claims. Applicant does not see how the database system of Bellemore (for which a separate security and password system is provided) is relevant to the claimed password database. In any event, Bellemore clearly does not teach another database for storing the new password as claimed. The amendments to independent claims have been made to further clarify that the system includes a password database and a separate database and that such databases are not the same as a database system of the type taught by Bellemore. The invention as claimed is thus believed to clearly distinguish from the teachings of Bellemore.

As Bellemore does not anticipate the method of claims 1, 5, 7, or 20 or any of the claims dependent thereon, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7, 11, and 18-21 over Bellemore is appropriate and is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-10, 12-17, and 22-23

The Examiner has cited Novoa with respect to dependent claims 8-10 and 12-15 and Schneier with respect to claims 16-17 and 22-23. Inasmuch as neither Novoa nor Schneier teaches a method of securely supporting password change by detecting the occurrence of a password change operation that changes a password and stores same in a password database and further performs the steps of "performing an operation to change a password of the known user to a new password in the system automatically" and "storing the new password in a database independent of the change password operation and other than the password database where the changed password is stored by the change password operation" as claimed, even if the teachings of Novoa alone or Novoa and Schneier could have been combined with the teachings of Bellemore as proposed by the Examiner, the claimed invention would not result. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 8-10, 12-17 and 22-23 is thus solicited.

Moreover, Applicant notes that the Examiner has provided no reason or suggestion for combining the teachings of Bellemore and Novoa alone or Novoa and Schneier to arrive at the claimed invention. It is unclear to Applicant what teaching is provided to combine the teachings of the references to provide a new password that is an "encryption key" and what relevance such a combination would have to the claimed invention in any event. Applicant submits that there is no such motivation and that the combination is improper. To sustain a proper rejection based on *prima facie* obviousness, the Examiner is required, and is hereby requested, to provide a reason, suggestion or motivation as to why one skilled in the art at the time of the invention would have known to combine the teachings of Bellemore and Novoa alone or Novoa and Schneier as proposed to arrive at the claimed invention. Absent such suggestions or motivation, the rejections of claims 8-10, 12-17 and 22-23 are improper and must be withdrawn.

For these reasons, claims 8-10, 12-17 and 22-23 are believed to be allowable for the same reasons as given above with respect to independent claims 7 and 20, respectively.

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PATENT


Conclusion

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-7, 11, and 18-21 as being anticipated by Bellemore and claims 8-10, 12-17 and 22-23 as being obvious over Bellemore in view of Novoa alone or Novoa and Schneier is respectfully requested.

Withdrawal of the rejections under Section 103 is further requested in view of the Examiner's failure to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness due to the lack of any proposed reason or motivation for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Bellemore, Novoa alone or Novoa and Schneier as proposed.

The present response is believed to obviate all rejections and objections of record. Entry of this amendment is believed to place the present application in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of all rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully requested.

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